

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 12, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Directors for The Hope Academy was held on Thursday, February 12, 2015. An agenda was distributed to all present (and made a part of these minutes by reference). Directors in attendance included Hon. Charles A. Lombardi, John Kelly, David Sluter, Amanda McMullen, Bianca Rodriguez, Deana Tineo and Michael Deragon. Staff in attendance included Margaret Knowlton, Donna Dimery, Thomas Conlon, Giselle Pellerano-Monseratt and Deborah Malachowski.

Call to Order – Chairman Lombardi called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and welcomed the group.

Consent Agenda- The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the October 20, 2014 and the November 17, 2014 Board meetings which were previously sent out to the Board members. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Knowlton to explain the Amended and Restated Professional Services Agreement which had also been previously sent out to the Board members.

Ms. Knowlton then discussed the changes to the Professional Services Agreement which includes the removal of language pertaining to specific time mandates of purchased services with

Meeting Street. This change provides The Hope Academy with greater flexibility in securing the services as needed. Mr. Conlon made the comment that The Hope Academy is only paying for the services it receives.

A motion to approve the minutes and the Amended and Restated Professional Services Agreement as presented was made by Mr. Sluter, seconded by, Ms. Rodriguez and unanimously approved. It was noted that Mr. Kelly and Ms. McMullen recused themselves from the discussion and vote.

Board Education-Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS) - Ms. Knowlton

explained the premise of the PBIS program and the effectiveness of maximizing social and academic outcomes for students. Ms. Knowlton spoke of the expectations and the importance of a safe, engaging, respectful, learning environment and how PBIS supports that. She also noted the significance of adults modeling the behaviors and recognizing students when they display expected behaviors such as greeting other, helping a friend, etc. Ms. Dimery commented that the reward system also helps an entire class to build community. PBIS has been in effect at The Hope Academy since September of 2014.

Financial Report – Mr. Conlon provided information regarding the state of the school budget. He reported on revenues and

expenditures, making note that the strength of the present budget is reflective of good planning prior to The Hope Academy opening in September, 2014. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Conlon to explain in detail each column on the balance sheet that he had provided, which he then did. After a brief discussion by members in regard to the services that Meeting Street is providing, Mr. Conlon then explained in detail the breakdown of the payment system. Chairman Lombardi then requested that Mr. Conlon provide members with a financial report quarterly, which he will do going forward.

Head of School Report - Ms. Dimery, Head of School, reported on the recent school visit by Commissioner Deborah Gist, described the supports that RIDE is providing and noted RIDE will be scheduling The Hope Academy for their Interim Site Visit in the beginning of April. Ms. Dimery also updated members on the status of the new website, the Parent Input Committee and the present school calendar, which will be adjusted due to snow days. She described the addition of dramatic play to the classroom as a way to generate more imagination and creative thinking. Ms. Dimery then informed the Board that the lottery for the 2015-2016 school year will be held on March 2, 2015 and to date there are eighty (80) applications for kindergarten and twelve (12) for grade 1.

Superintendent Report - Ms. Knowlton, Superintendent, reported on the resignation of a board member, Mr. Christopher Samih-Rotondo, effective February 1, 2015. She also noted that Mayor

Elorza of Providence has joined the Board and will be making an additional appointment as per the Charter. Everyone is looking forward to working with Mayor Elorza and his appointee. Ms. Knowlton stated she does not anticipate any layoffs or terminations for the upcoming school year. She explained that all teachers are required to be dually certified and that existing teachers will be dually certified by the end of this school year. She also described the development of a mandatory preparatory summer program for students who will be entering kindergarten as well as a summer program for those students who have not met benchmarks during the school year. Ms. Knowlton informed members of the rescheduling of the 1-2-3 Magic for Parents presentation to March 5, 2015.

Ms. Knowlton then asked Mr. Kelly to update the members on the status of facilities and the anticipated expansion of The Hope Academy within the existing building. Mr. Kelly informed the group that Meeting Street has hired an architectural firm to review our entire facility and campus to determine the feasibility of Hope's continued cohabitation on the Meeting Street campus. There was a brief discussion by members in regard to the options available. Members of The Hope Academy will be involved in focus groups providing input to Meeting Street's master planning committee.

Other Business - Chairman Lombardi then asked if there was any other business and there being none, moved to adjournment.

Adjournment -The Chairman asked if there were any further questions and upon there being none, thanked the group and asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. McMullen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by, Ms. Rodriguez and unanimously approved and the Board adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Malachowski

Secretary Pro Tem